

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-66. (cancelled)

67. (Currently amended) A method of administering a biologically active protein to a subject, the method comprising

topically applying to the skin or epithelium of the subject the biologically active protein in conjunction with a carrier in an effective amount for transdermal delivery of the biologically active protein,

wherein the carrier comprises a polypeptide having attached positively charged branching groups comprising a sequence of amino acid residues,

wherein the positively charged branching groups are selected from the group consisting of $-(\text{gly})_{n1}-(\text{arg})_{n2}$, $(\text{gly})_p\text{-RGRDDRRQRRR}-(\text{gly})_q$ (SEQ ID NO. 2), $(\text{gly})_p\text{-YGRKKRRQRRR}-(\text{gly})_q$ (SEQ ID NO. 3), $(\text{gly})_p\text{-RKKRRQRRR}-(\text{gly})_q$ (SEQ ID NO. 4), and Antennapedia protein transduction domain (PTD),

wherein the subscript $n1$ is an integer of from 0 to about 20, and the subscript $n2$ is independently an odd integer of from about 5 to about 25,

wherein the subscripts p and q are each independently an integer of from 0 to 20,

wherein the biologically active protein excludes insulin, vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), and antibody fragments; and

~~wherein the association between the carrier and the biologically active protein is non-covalently and directly associate.~~

68. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 67, wherein the carrier provides greater transdermal delivery of the biologically active protein relative to the agent biologically active protein in the absence of the carrier.

69. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 68, wherein the biologically active protein has therapeutic activity.

70. (Cancelled)

71. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 69, wherein the therapeutic protein does not therapeutically alter blood glucose levels.
72. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 69, wherein the therapeutic protein excludes botulinum toxin.
- 73.-191. **(cancelled).**